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THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 17 July 1995 from the Permanent Representative
of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, dated 15 July 1995, concerning the recent deterioration of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 28 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Anatoli M. ZLENKO
Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

Ukraine is seriously concerned at the escalation of the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Heedless of human pain and suffering, the parties to the conflict are being drawn deeper and deeper into a full-scale war, with unforeseeable consequences.

The hostilities are accompanied by acts of violence against the civilian population. The infamous practice of ethnic cleansing, in particular the deportation of Muslims from the eastern enclaves of Bosnia and Herzegovina, is becoming more widespread.

Ukraine is particularly alarmed at the hostile acts committed by the parties to the conflict against United Nations peace-keeping personnel, especially in the "safe areas" of Žepa and Goražde, where a Ukrainian contingent is deployed. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs considers the threats against and humiliation of United Nations troops and their use as living shields completely unacceptable. The language of ultimatums to which the sides are resorting with increasing frequency in their dealings with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) is inadmissible.

Ukraine believes that the attainment of peace in the region depends primarily on the belligerent sides themselves. Without their political will, no peacemaking efforts will be able to prevent an escalation of violence.

The development of the conflict in the territory of Yugoslavia has clearly demonstrated that reliance on military might and attempts to dictate conditions for peace by force of arms are doomed to failure. Only direct dialogue between the parties to the conflict, with the mediation of the United Nations, is the quickest way of halting the bloodshed and achieving peace.

In this regard, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine proposes that a meeting of the Security Council at the level of Ministers for Foreign Affairs be convened as soon as possible in order to conduct a comprehensive review of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and adopt effective decisions with a view to promoting a resumption of the dialogue and finding a formula for reconciliation that would be acceptable to all parties to the conflict.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine has sent letters to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council requesting them to take immediate steps to ensure the safety of the Ukrainian and other peace-keeping contingents.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine are taking other necessary measures with a view to normalizing the situation.
